DENVER
PUBLIC SAFETY

September 17, 2026

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Case No. IC2025-0035

Evan Potter (P24032)
Police Officer First Grade in the Classified Service
Denver Police Department

This matter is before the Executive Director of the Department of Public Safety (EDOS) to approve, disapprove, or modify the Chief of Police's Written Command ordering disciplinary action against Officer Evan Potter. Written Command determined Officer Potter violated RR-102.1, Duty to Obey Departmental Rules and Mayoral Executive Orders as it pertains to OMS 102.04, Alarms, 6.04, Incident Reporting & Investigations of the Denver Police Department Operations Manual, when he failed to adequately investigate a silent alarm at a residence where the Denver Fire Department was subsequently dispatched to extinguish a fire that resulted in two fatalities. Officer Potter's conduct was determined to fall within a Category F Conduct violation, with a penalty of termination.

Facts and Findings[1]

On May 7, 2025, at approximately 4:12 AM, Officer Potter was dispatched to a burglary alarm at 6601 E. Dakota Ave in Denver. Officer Potter responded to the call at approximately 4:36 AM, and shortly thereafter left the residence, indicating that it was a false alarm. AVL Data shows Officer Potter's vehicle on E. Dakota Ave. at 4:36 AM. By 4:37 AM, AVL Data shows Officer Potter's vehicle at the intersection of S. Niagara St. and E. Nevada Pl., preparing to turn westbound.[2] This demonstrates that Officer Potter spent less than one minute on E. Dakota Ave in front of the residence associated with the alarm.

At 4:50 AM, Denver 911 received a call reporting a fire at 6601 E. Dakota Ave. Initially, it was reported as a trash fire but was upgraded to a structure fire while the Denver Fire Department was en route. The Fire Investigator reported that firefighters breached the locked front door of the residence, where they located an elderly female lying just inside. They located an elderly male inside a bedroom of the house. Both individuals were taken outside where firefighters and paramedics unsuccessfully attempted lifesaving measures.[3] When Officer Potter responded back to the scene at 5:22 AM, a fireman indicated that the fire started on the back porch.[4]

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[1] This section is intended to summarize the facts relevant to the Executive Director's decision. It does not recount all the facts developed as part of the internal investigation or include a recitation of all information the Executive Director may have reviewed to ensure understanding of the factual record upon which this Order is based.

[2] *Route362CZoomed.pdf* from IA file; Also see Figure 1.

[3] *GO_Report_--_2025-230107.pdf.*

[4] Potter BWC at 0:45.

Subject Officer Statement

Officer Potter participated in an Internal Affairs interview on June 9, 2025. Officer Potter confirmed that he reviewed his BWC footage and CAD notes prior to his interview.[5] He stated that he was currently assigned as a patrol officer in District 3 and has been assigned there since November 2024.

Officer Potter confirmed that on May 7, 2025, at 4:12 AM, he was dispatched to a silent alarm call for service at 6601 E. Dakota Ave. He indicated that when he received the call, he was at the fuel center at Jewell St. and Quebec St. He stated that he believed he was working on an accident report and may have completed the report before responding to the silent alarm call.[6]

Officer Potter indicated that he did not activate his body worn camera when he arrived at the scene of the silent alarm call. "My body worn camera was turned on, it was in buffering mode when I responded, um, I guess I misinterpreted the policy possibly having reviewed it afterwards but, um, I came from an agency for 19 years where we turned it on when we made contact with somebody or we did something... of substance... I didn't see or hear or do anything of substance at this call, so I neglected to turn it on."[7]

Officer Potter indicated that he did not hear any audible alarms at the scene and did not encounter any other people. He reported that the house was dark and there were no cars in the driveway or near the house.[8]

Officer Potter was asked to describe the actions he took when responding to the call. He recalled that it was raining, so he was using his spotlight to find the residence. He eventually found the correct address using the spotlight. He indicated that he did not see any smoke or flames and did not hear any alarms. Officer Potter stated that he observed the side gate near the driveway to be closed. He indicated that these were the only actions he took. He did not ring the doorbell or attempt to look into the backyard. He indicated that the residence looked vacant to him. He said he did not think the call warranted going into the backyard.[9]

Officer Potter was asked to describe what he typically does when responding to a silent alarm call.[10] Officer Potter said the alarm companies call the alarms different things, so it depends on what information the officer gets. Officer Potter stated that in his experience, they receive a large number of silent alarm calls when there are rainstorms and wind. He indicated that he didn't see anything out of the ordinary that would warrant further investigation.[11]

Officer Potter indicated that, after driving east on Dakota Ave to 6601, he opened the door to his patrol vehicle at the scene and rolled his window down, but he did not get out.[12] He turned north at the end of

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[5] Officer Potter Interview at 1:00.
[6] [2:30]
[7] [3:16}
[8] [4:08]
[9] [4:39]
[10] [6:15]
[11] [7:02]
[12] [16:35]

the block and then returned west on the parallel block to the north, E Nevada Place. He stopped in this area to clear the alarm call through his computer and then worked on an accident report.[13]

Automatic Vehicle Location Data

AVL data[14] shows that Officer Potter spent less than a minute near 6601 E Dakota Ave at 4:36 AM, and during that minute, he also drove from west to east most of the length of the block and then turned north on the perpendicular street. Figure 1 shows the location of Officer Potter's vehicle, plotted by location and time. The red circle denotes the location of 6601 E Dakota Ave. Any stop Officer Potter made at 6601 E Dakota was brief—a matter of seconds. The ALV data shows that after driving by 6601 E Dakota Ave, Officer Potter spent about 13 minutes stopped in his vehicle on Nevada Place, the parallel street to the north of Dakota Ave, where houses backed up to the houses on Dakota Ave. According to his Internal Affairs interview, Officer Potter completed paperwork during this time.[15] At 4:50 AM ALV data show that he left the area (Figure 1).

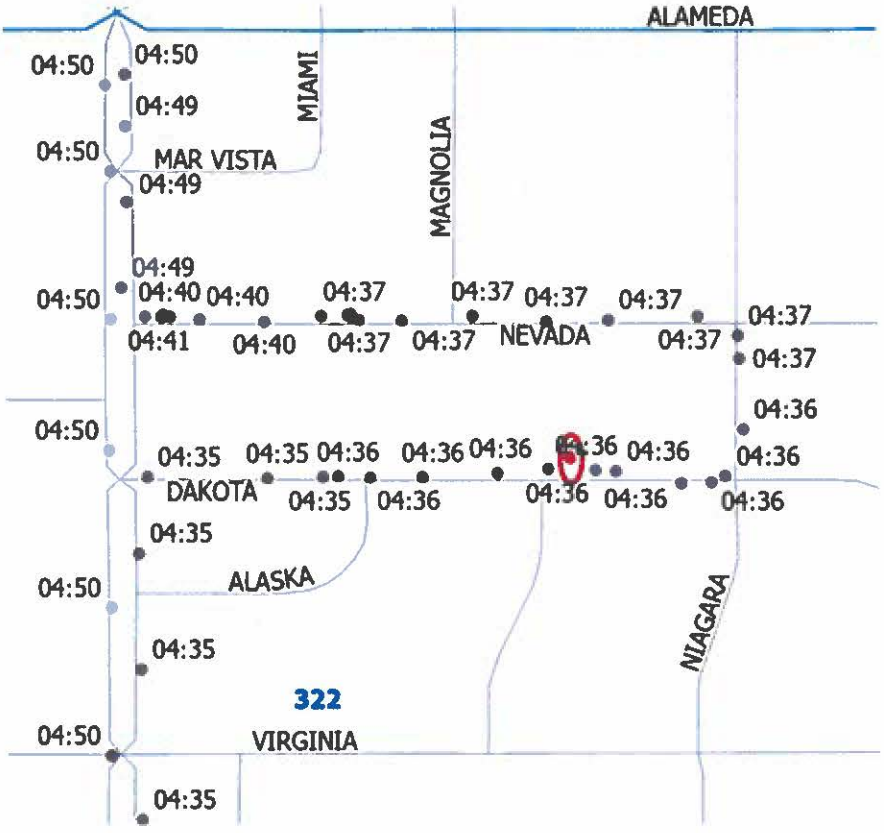


Figure 1. The plotted locations and times of Officer Potter's vehicle between 4:35 and 4:50 AM. A red circle and dot show the location of 6601 E Dakota Ave. where the fire occurred.

[13] [*Id.* 17:26]
[14] *Route362CZoomed.pdf,* document from Internal Affairs file
[15] Officer Potter Interview at 17:26.

Fire Investigation Report

The DFD Fire Investigator indicated that the fire originated in the family room located on the North side of the residence.[16] The investigator spoke to an ADT Security Representative, who said she could not verify what room the motion detector that triggered the alarm was placed in. She also indicated that there was not a monitored smoke/fire alarm associated with the ADT system at the residence. She denied the system motion alarm could be activated by smoke or fire but did report falling objects could trigger the detector. She denied there being a monitored smoke or fire alarm associated with the ADT system at the address.[17]

The DFD report includes information that the DFD investigator collected from the next-door neighbor directly to the west of 6601 E Dakota:[18]

> [Neighbor] advised that he was awoken by three loud "pops" and what he described as flashes coming from 6601 E Dakota Ave. He advised that he originally thought they could be gunshots and when he looked out of his window, he observed a glow or what he thought was fire coming from the rear of the residence. He said that he advised his wife to call 911 as he went outside to investigate.
>
> [Neighbor] said that he noticed the front door was locked and he knocked on the door and windows trying to get the attention of the residents inside. He said that the fence to the west had something obstructing the gate and as he removed it, he could see fire damage on the back of the house. He also said that the windows felt warm to the touch.

Upon returning from next door, the neighbor learned that his wife did not hear him tell her to call 911, so he then placed the call. DFD records show that this call was placed at 4:50 AM, and that the first DFD unit arrived at 4:56 AM.[19]

The cause of death for both decedents was listed as asphyxiation caused by the fire.[20] The Investigator identified several potential ignition sources but could not conclusively identify a singular primary ignition source.[21] The fire was classified as accidental.[22]

Chief's Hearing

Officer Potter provided the following statement during his Chief's Hearing on May 28, 2026:

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[16] GO Report - - 2025-230107 at page 90 of 162.
[17] [*Id.* p. 118]
[18] [*Id.* p. 11]
[19] [*Id.* p.126]
[20] [*Id.* p. 3-4]
[21] [*Id.* p. 119]
[22] [*Id.* p. 87]

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Case No: IC2025-0035
Officer Evan Potter
Police Officer First Grade
Denver Police Department

My name is Evan Potter. Just a brief introduction about myself, first of all, I am a husband, father of four small children, well, not small anymore, various ages, as well me and my wife are expecting another in September.

After high school, I served honorably in the military for 6 years. Immediately upon separating from that, I joined the Thornton Police Department where I served honorably for eighteen and a half years. During that time, I spent 13 years as a canine handler, leading a team, becoming a national canine trainer, a handler instructor certifying official, supervising five other dog teams, and training countless more across the metro area, ultimately the Denver Police Department as well as Denver Sheriffs. I was a SWAT team member, as well as I provided instruction and training throughout the whole department on canine operations. I spent quite a bit of time invested in the citizen's academy, the youth academy, and the elderly people's academy, they're called Silver Stars.

Over the time in my career, the majority of it was in control operations, where I've seen countless tragedies, countless deaths, responded to countless fatal accidents, been assaulted on multiple occasions, to include being hit by a vehicle, which caused me to have a permanent disability in my neck, which required disc replacement surgery through the front, so I can't really button my shirt any more due to scar tissue. I've been in the emergency room countless times for other injuries, and I've responded to tens of thousands of calls at this point, probably I'd estimate at least a thousand alarms of a similar nature in my career. I've entered a burning building to save a baby, which I successfully did. I've held a woman who burnt her face off in a barbecue grill explosion. I've saved two different infants or toddlers from choking, using backslaps and CPR. I saved another baby that was being strangled by its mother as she was trying to be taken away by social services, using deadly force with my hands, which ultimately didn't cause her death, but the baby was unharmed. I saved countless people including a 15-year-old child with Narcan deployments. I responded to an active shooter investigation where I was the first one scene with my partner, running into a Walmart when active gunfire was taking place. I've made hundreds of felony arrests for violent crimes. I've found hundreds of pounds of illegal drugs with my canine partners, as well as I've held two different canine partners as they passed away.

We had a news magazine article written about me and my first dog, after successfully integrating with an FBI hostage rescue team to apprehend a person wanted for trafficking four thousand pounds of cocaine. I have a Purple Heart from the Thornton Police Department as well as five separate unit citations. I have seven national commendations from the National Police Canine Association for different patrol, tracking, and narcotic cases. I have dozens of letters from the public speaking to my character and gratitude. I have journal entries in the Denver Police Department since coming here approximately a year and a half ago, all positive, except for the one minor car accident where I clipped a parked car during a U-turn.

My eighteen and a half years with the Thornton Police Department, I was involved in only one sustained internal affairs complaint and it was to do with another officer placing detained parties' property in my patrol car, assuming I would help them book it in, cuz where I came from, they couldn't take it to jail with them. That property rolled underneath my canine kennel, and I wasn't able to see it until it was located a few months ago-- or a few months later, at which point I immediately turned myself in to Internal Affairs and asked the person if they wanted to make a complaint. I received a one-day suspension for that.

Since joining the Denver Police Department, I was heavily recruited by other officers I knew through the canine world, as well as, after turning down the job, I was heavily recruited again by the academy staff. Then I came and joined a very small lateral class and only took a limited amount of training. During that time, I finished first in the class, I mentored the two other laterals in my class, one with driving operations and one with shooting. During my time in District 3, I've helped mentor other

officers, including while I was still in the PTO program, helping other trainers, and other officers that were in training. I've helped sergeants along with leadership with ideas that I brought from another agency that helped them with problems they were running into. I was selected by our training sergeant to attend the Police PTO school and start training officers here. And I was recruited by our Homeless Outreach bike team to join.

On the night in question, I'd been off training for a few months and was assigned to a graveyard shift. Not to make excuses, but I'd been on graveyard for over 15 years at that point. At that point, I was in a solo assignment. I was dispatched to what the audio recording confirms was a front motion alarm. We get a lot of these types of alarms, a lot of these types of calls, particularly with this sort of weather. That night it was raining and windy, which every cop knows that increases all motion alarms, and typically when you respond, that person has no idea that the alarm has even gone off.

That night also, I hadn't recalled, but after reviewing with the internal affairs sergeant that did my initial investigation, it became clear, and it makes sense that there was intermittent connection with the MDTs[23], probably also dealing with that weather, and the MDTs weren't updating or sending us the same information that was later provided. I was sent to a front motion alarm. Not a panic alarm, not a duress alarm, especially not a fire alarm. Not a burglary alarm, not a water detection alarm, not an alarm that we would consider verified by more than one source, such as a glass break, or an entry plus a motion. Just simply the front motion alarm.

Just to explain, the MDTs in the cars, the computer in the car is what I'm referencing, the computer in the car, and I later for my own peace of mind after speaking with the internal affairs sergeant, and the fire investigator, went back to review and I found that the call was in fact what I thought it was. If you look up the call just in the MDT, not in all the printouts that are provided later on in the investigation printed out from the CAD system, just what was provided to me was the address, the time, the cross-streets, etc, the normal information, and then the ADT front motion alarm, or front alarm, as well as no caller contact, and no follow-up needed, as far as it was only one or two lines to the best of my recollection. It was not consistent with what the fire investigator later told me and provided, but I was able to confirm it by looking at the MDT and reviewing the reports later on, and telling them that I was not in fact dispatched to what these things say I was. And if you listen to the audio recording, I was not dispatched to what they say I was. I believe that the intermittent connection between the MDT could be to blame for that. The car was not updating the records, the information was not being provided to my call screen.

So I responded. I responded to the call, I went to the address. It was raining, it was windy. It's dark, it's 4:30 in the morning. I'm driving down the street, I'm unfamiliar with that area, I hadn't been working there very long, so I inadvertently pulled up directly in front of the residence, which I tactically wouldn't normally do, but I wasn't able to see the addresses so I inadvertently pulled up directly in front of the address. I used my spotlight, the spotlight was at an angle that when I turned it on, I didn't aim it first, and it was just pointed directly at the roof of the target house. When I turned it on, I was able to clearly see the entire front of the house, the whole front of the residence, within 20-25 feet. Starting from one side to the other, there's no garage, there's just a driveway. The driveway's completely empty, there's no cars in the driveway. Looking over the house, there's no lights on in the house. There's no glow, there's no flashlights. There's nothing visible, except for the windows, the door, the storm door, the roof—everything being intact. The house is completely intact, and it actually appears vacant. Using the spotlight I could see that there's nothing visible through the windows. The house is completely black. I believe that if there was smoke emanating from the roof, I would have clearly been able to see

[23] Motor Data Terminal, the computer that a patrol car is equipped with that includes computer automated dispatch notes.

it, even though it probably would have been less pronounced, given that the rainstorm was taking place and the wind—it should have been visible at that point. At that point, admittedly, I believe I could see everything I could see. There's a gate that goes into the backyard. The gate is on the side of the house. It doesn't provide a view to the rear of the house, it would only provide a view directly back to the neighbor's fence, or the west side of the property. That gate was barricaded by a trash can. I also believe I was able to see it lashed.

In this instance, in my training and experience, I did not feel that it warranted removing that barricade or that lashing and entering the people's property. There was no exigent circumstances that I was able to detect. There was no emergency. Having opened the door and the window of the patrol car, I did not hear an alarm. There was no audible alarm. There was no beeping, there was no smoke detector, no audible burglary alarm. There was nothing but rain. I didn't—after determining it didn't appear that the back door, that it was prudent or reasonable for any officer to enter that backyard given the circumstances to prohibit—to be able to articulate why I was back there if something would happen, such as being attacked by a dog or witnessing, you know, the homeowner seeing a guy in black at 4:30 in the morning in his backyard walking past his window. In my training and experience, it wouldn't have been prudent to go in that backyard. I believed I could see all I was going to be able to see looking over that house, so I decided to get back in my car, close the window and door, without approaching.

If I went up, there was no glow of a doorbell or anything, so I got back in my car or closed up the car, I don't recall which, I went around to see if there was an alley to this street. Unfamiliar with this particular neighborhood, I went to check to see if there was an alley. Maybe there's a door or a gate that's ajar in that back alley. I go around to the side, up the block. There's no alley to this residence. So I go around the corner again, estimate how many houses up I am, I look again, spotlight, driving by the houses and trees and fences and everything do not provide a view past, you know, what you would be able to see normally, a yard, a house, fences into the next block. I didn't detect anything had taken place, was taking place, needed anything further. I didn't feel like it needed any further investigation. I felt that, at the time, I had done all I could do, so I moved down the street.

Further explaining the MDT issues that I was having when I stopped down the street: Typically when I finish a call, I pull off a little bit further in the area. I believe I was working on some sort of reports, checking the connection with that, not seeing that report coming back, I then went to clear the call through MDT. The MDT detected that I hadn't arrived on scene. In hindsight, either the car hadn't connected as I pulled up, or I failed to push the button, I don't know which. Either way, there was no additional updates on the MDT as to anything further to investigate or anyone that wanted contact on this call. So I put myself on scene again when I got to a different spot up the street, like I said. The connection was restored. I was able to put myself on scene. At that point, I then cleared the call with what I believed at the time was reasonable to assume it was a false alarm.

About 20 or 30 minutes later, I was dispatched again. I was dispatched and when I arrived, I realized immediately that it was the same house that I had been to previously, 20 or 30 minutes prior. The Denver Fire Department was taking two deceased people out of the house. I immediately secured the perimeter around the house to aid in the investigation as best I could. I was in shock that that was what had taken place. I went, assisted with putting tents over the bodies and helping with the investigation. I wrote in the statement immediately that I had been to that alarm previously, immediately identifying that if I had seen something in this, I would be open and up front and honest about it immediately, but I don't believe that I had missed anything.

After being able to review the investigation, and the reports here with my attorney, I think it's—it's a tragedy, but looking it over, they aren't able to determine when this fire started. It's all speculation as to how long it had been burning. If it was burning when I was there, if it had been burning for

multiple hours before I arrived. What they do uncover is that this house had no smoke detectors whatsoever, or alarms on the doors or windows. All of it was secured and locked, just like when I perceived that as I pulled up. The windows were, in fact, intact, the door was completely locked, the storm door was locked. All the glass was intact. The Fire Department said they had to use breaching tools to open the security door as well as the front door before they ever felt any heat or saw or smelled any smoke. So even if I had had the breaching tools, which I didn't have, I wouldn't have been able to detect that this house was on fire until I used those breaching tools to open that door, which I wouldn't have been authorized to do, given the circumstances, or the lack of exigency.

Besides the firemen, they also found another witness that said it was not hot to the touch. He did not see any smoke. The witness and the firefighters both confirmed that they weren't able to see anybody in jeopardy, or deceased, or in medical exigency through any of the windows. It was all black inside. They confirmed that the doorbell didn't work, the neighbor witness confirmed that the doorbell didn't work.

So in hindsight, yes, I feel absolutely terrible, I feel as terrible as I did when I rolled up to it the first time as I do now. I've thought about little else, especially for the last two months. I've been at home, I've put myself through a tremendous mental load, trying to think of whether there was anything I could have done that would have prevented this. I've been, I mean—sorry [pauses emotionally]. I've been an officer that never tried to get out of his responsibilities, that was never lazy, that always went the extra mile, always did the right thing, took it further than most cops would take it. It's how I got into the specialty I got into. That's how I got into the years and years of proactive police work that I did and was so successful at.

I'm not lazy, I don't blow off calls. I respond to the calls that I'm given. I'm not perfect, but I've always tried to do the right thing on calls that I'm given and for the cops that I've worked with. Like I said, I've- I've thought about little else, especially since this happened but, but especially in the last two months of reflection sitting at home. I've lost sleep, I've lost weight. My mental health has been compromised. I needed to seek counseling to work through this tragedy, as well as all the other tragedies that I've seen over the course of my career. While working through that, working through the reports with [counsel], being able to read everything, I feel confident, knowing what I knew at the time, that nothing I could have done differently would have prevented this tragedy, as much as I wish there was something.

Looking back at the last 26 years of my career that I've been responding to calls, even in the military, I think it's safe to say that every cop in this room knows that if you look back on every single call, there's always one more thing you could have done, or one thing you could have done better, you try to do one thing better next time. It's not to say that complacency doesn't exist, or that it can't creep in, but you do your best to avoid it and to not let it take over.

But that night, my 26 years of experience and my 26 years of training and responding in real world applications of all these different things that I've seen and done and learned, there's nothing I could have done that would have prevented this tragedy, that I could have stopped or saved them.

I chose to come to the Denver Police Department after a very comfortable career somewhere else. I chose to come here, I chose to lose seniority, I chose to lose money and longevity, and so on and so forth, for the challenge of working here. And I very much want to continue working here, and continue doing good for people, and providing for my family. I've always put the community first. All those years, I've missed countless holidays, birthdays, and special events. One of my sons is pitching right now and I'm missing his baseball game. I've put others before myself for the last 26 years, and in the eleven months after this tragedy, I continued on patrol without any issues. I went to day shift, I became a leader, I set the example for younger officers. My work quality, helping with the sergeants

with new ideas that, maybe if you've worked here your whole career you maybe wouldn't have thought of or wouldn't have been exposed to. I've worked with detectives and various special units here, who all expressed gratitude for my quality of work, the arrests that I've made. I have no complaints here. I have no other internals here other than scraping a parked car making a U-turn. I've truly, other than this experience, I've truly enjoyed working for the Denver Police Department. I've truly enjoyed the challenges here, I've enjoyed the people here, I've enjoyed the culture here, and I wouldn't change coming here for anything.

Officer Potter's counsel provided a print-out of alarm calls sent to the Denver Police Department, pointing out that the vast majority of them were false alarms, particularly during bad weather. He also pointed out that alarm calls are the lowest priority for service and often go unresponded to during high volume call period.

When asked what he would do differently in the future, Officer Potter indicated that on future alarm calls, he will always exit his vehicle to investigate, and he will use this situation to educate other officers on the importance of exiting their vehicle to thoroughly investigate every alarm call.

Officer Potter's representative emphasized his character, extensive history of service and commendations, and the selfless dedication he has demonstrated over his many years of service as a testament to why he should not be terminated.

Applicable Rules, Regulations, and Policies

RR-102.1, Duty to Obey Departmental Rules and Mayoral Executive Orders, of the Denver Police Department Operations Manual, provides that,

> Officers shall obey all Departmental rules, duties, procedures, instructions, and orders; the provisions of the Operations Manual; and Mayoral Executive Orders.
>
> As it pertains to
>
> **OMS 102.04 Alarms**
>
> **(1) Alarm Types:**
>
> The four types of alarm to which officers will respond are:
>
> - Hold-Up
> - Intrusion (burglar/silent)
> - Local (audible/ringer)
> - Police Alert (panic)
>
> . . .
>
> (3) Alarm Disposition Codes:

On all alarms checked, the responding officer will notify the dispatcher of the disposition of the alarm using one of the following codes:

- Class 1 – owner/employee inside
- Class 2 – no apparent reason/equipment malfunction
- Class 3 – good alarm
- Class 4 – cancellation

Relevant Policy Provisions:

6.00 Duties and Responsibilities of Patrol Officers

In addition to the duties of all sworn officers, patrol officers will:

. . .

6.04 Incident Reporting – Investigations – Appropriate Actions:

. . .

d. Investigate all complaints and cases which are assigned to them or which are brought to their attention, and take appropriate action in those cases which come under the jurisdiction of the Denver Police Department. . . . They will take all necessary and reasonable actions to satisfy involved persons, and will make reports as required by policy.

Analysis, Findings, and Conclusions

The Written Command determined that Officer Potter violated RR 102.1, Duty to Obey Departmental Rules and Mayoral Executive Orders as it pertains to OMS 102.04 and 6.04 when he failed to adequately investigate a silent alarm at a residence, where DFD was subsequently dispatched to extinguish a fire that resulted in two fatalities. A preponderance of the evidence shows that Officer Potter spent less than a minute in front of 6601 E Dakota Ave, did not exit his vehicle, and that this course of action was not adequate to investigate the incident. Officer Potter did not knock on the door of the residence, attempt to look inside, or leave his vehicle to look around outside to investigate what triggered the alarm. He stated that he rolled his window down and opened the door but did not get out.

In the minutes after Officer Potter drove by the address at 4:37 AM, a neighbor was awoken by pops caused by the fire at 6601 E Dakota Ave, went next door to try to investigate, returned to his own residence, and called 911 at 4:50 AM. The proximity of time between Officer Potter responding to the burglary alarm and the neighbor being awoken by "pops" from the fire suggests that the fire was in progress when Officer Potter responded to the residence. While Officer Potter said he did not observe any indications of a fire at 4:37 AM, he also admitted that he did not take significant measures to investigate the alarm, other than shining his spotlight on the house and briefly opening his car door and rolling down the window.

There is no way to determine if different actions by Officer Potter would have prevented the deaths. However, had he exited his vehicle to conduct even a minimal investigation into the cause of the alarm,

Officer Potter may have seen or heard signs of the fire and may have been able to notify the fire department sooner, giving the occupants a better chance of survival.

Officer Potter stated that in his experience, bad weather tends to cause more alarms to be triggered. His assumptions generalizing this information to the incident at hand demonstrates the risk of drawing conclusions without adequate investigation.

A violation of RR-102.1 appears in Conduct Categories A through F of the disciplinary matrix. By failing to investigate a silent alarm at a residence where DFD was subsequently dispatched to extinguish a fire that resulted in two fatalities, Officer Potter's misconduct falls under Category F because it:

-Foreseeably resulted in death or serious bodily injury to another person: While the outcome of any specific alarm call is not foreseeable, it is foreseeable that some alarm calls result from urgent situations and failing to take adequate measures to investigate the cause of an alarm may result in an inaccurate assessment of an incident. In this case, that inadequate assessment resulted in a missed opportunity to identify the criticality of the incident and effectuate an intervention that could have increased the survival chances of the two occupants.

-Constitutes a willful or wanton disregard of department values: Officer Potter resulted the alarm as false without taking adequate action to confirm his assumption. DPD values integrity, which is ensuring our actions are backed by honesty and match our words. In this case, Officer Potter resulted a false alarm without conducting an adequate investigation to confirm his assumption. DPD also values service, which involves providing adequate and respectful service to the public. In this case, Officer Potter's actions were inadequate when he failed to exit his vehicle.

-Involves any act which demonstrates a serious lack of the integrity, ethics or character related to an officer's fitness to hold their position: Police officers cannot make careless assumptions about the calls they are responding to, for any reason. Whatever his reasons, Officer Potter did not respond to this call with the integrity expected and required of DPD officers to adequately investigate hazards and to take reasonable measures to protect the public.

Officer Potter has no prior Conduct Category F violations that would mandatorily increase the penalty level. Pursuant to the disciplinary matrix for a discipline level of eight (8), the mitigated penalty is a ninety (90) day suspension and the presumptive penalty is termination. There are no significant aggravating or mitigating factors in this case that would justify a penalty outside of the presumptive range. As such, the presumptive penalty of termination is warranted for Officer Potter's misconduct.

For the above-stated reasons, the Executive Director concludes that by a preponderance of the evidence, Officer Potter violated RR102.1 as it pertains to OMS 102.04, Alarms, 6.04, Incident Reporting & Investigations of the Denver Police Department Operations Manual. The rule violation is sustained and a presumptive penalty of termination is hereby imposed.

BY ORDER:

Danica Lee — September 17, 2026

Chief Compliance Officer — Date

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Case No: IC2025-0035
Officer Evan Potter
Police Officer First Grade
Denver Police Department

Notice of Appeal Rights: Pursuant to Denver City Charter § 9.4.15(A), Officer Potter has 10 (ten) days from receipt of this Order to file a written appeal with the Civil Service Commission, 101 W Colfax Ave, Denver, CO 80202, (720) 913-3370.

Pursuant to §9.4.14(C) of the Charter for the City and County of Denver, a copy of this Order shall be personally served within five days from the date of the Order. If personal service of this Order cannot be made within five days because of the inability to locate Officer Evan Potter within the City and County of Denver, a copy of this Order shall be mailed by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, to the last known address of Officer Potter, as shown by the records of the Denver Police Department. Said service shall be complete upon return of the mailing receipt, whether accepted or not.

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Case No: IC2025-0035
Officer Evan Potter
Police Officer First Grade
Denver Police Department

OFFICER'S RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I received the within Departmental Order of Disciplinary Action and served a complete and accurate copy of the Order to the within-named Officer Evan Potter this 22nd day of September 2026.

Signature

Det. Eric Bueno

Printed Name